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REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated August 31, 2004. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 3, 7, 19, 49, 52, 63, and 73 and canceled Claim 51 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that Claims 20, 22-48, 60 and 62 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

Claims 1-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, as being indefinite. The Examiner has noted specific particularities that require attention and these have been addressed in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection with respect to Claims 1-19 and 21.

Claims 1, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Trzyna*. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to further define the invention such that the cylindrical body, the polymeric material body, is formed such that it has a diameter in the central portion thereof that is larger than the diameter at the ends. The outer shell is formed around the cylindrical body such that it accounts for this and it is conformally disposed there around. As such, the outer shell cannot be "slipped" over the cylindrical body, since the opening at the end of the outer shell in the disclosed embodiment will not allow the cylindrical body to slip therethrough, since the maximum diameter of the outer shell at the end must be less than the diameter of the cylindrical body in the central portion thereof.

The *Trzyna* reference discloses a cylindrical inner body that has a set diameter wherein the cylindrical shell around the outer body has a substantially uniform interior diameter. Further, the foam (30) is a hardenable liquid foam such that the interior is "filled." Therefore, the outer shell cannot be disposed about the cylindrical body after the formation of the cylindrical body. Therefore, Applicant

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believes that Claim 1 is not anticipated by the *Trzyna* reference and, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection with respects to Claims 1, 19 and 21.

Claims 1-19, 21, 49-59, 61 and 63-75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Brugman*. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Claim 1, as noted herein above, has been amended to further define the dimensions of the cylindrical body as being such that the central portion has a larger diameter than the end portions. Further, independent Claims 63 and 73 have been amended in a similar manner. *Brugman* does not disclose such, as the interior diameter of the outer cylindrical shell is constant in diameter and the interior material is a foam. Thus, this material cannot be such that the outer shell is disposed over the cylindrical body after formation of the cylindrical body. With respect to independent Claim 49, it has been amended to further define the invention as including the lips set forth in claim 51, which has been incorporated therein, wherein the lips are disposed around the circular edge of the continuous body. Further, the continuous body is formed prior to the formation of the first and second tubular shells and the first and second tubular shells are assembled about the continuous body after a formation of the continuous body. The *Brugman* reference does not disclose such a structure, since there is no lip as a part of the first and second tubular shells. Therefore, Claims 1, 49, 63 and 73 of the independent claims, are not believed to be anticipated by *Brugman*. Since the remaining claims are dependent therefrom, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection with respect to Claims 1-19, 21, 49-59, 61 and 63-75.

Applicant further notes that the dependent claims dependent from Claim 19, specifically Claims 2 and 8, define the outer shell as being formed of two thin-walled tubular shells. These thin-walled tubular shells must be formed in such a manner that they will conformally cover the cylindrical body wherein the diameter of the outermost peripheral edges thereof is smaller than that associated with the central portion. Neither *Brugman* nor *Trzyna* disclose such a structure, and therefore, these claims are not believed to be anticipated or obviated by the combination of *Trzyna* or *Brugman*.

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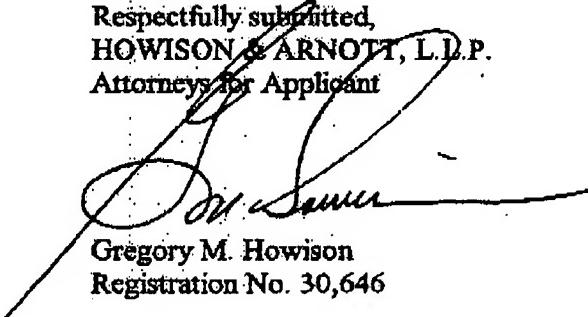
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Neither *Trzyna* nor *Brugman*, taken singularly or in combination, render Applicant's present inventive concept, as defined by the amended claims, obvious or unpatentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection with respect to Claims 1-19, 21, 49-59, 61 and 63-75.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/REYN-25,923 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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